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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,704	05/27/2005	Nobuyoshi Takeuchi	92478-3200	9263
53044 7590 11/20/2009 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. (Panasonic) 600 ANTON BOULEVARD SUITE 1400 COSTA MESA, CA 92626				
EXAMINER WALFORD, NATALIE K				
ART UNIT 2879		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 11/20/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/536,704

**Applicant(s)**

TAKEUCHI ET AL.

**Examiner**

NATALIE K. WALFORD

**Art Unit**

2879

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6,8 and 10-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,6,8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2005 and 22 November 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

The Amendment, filed on August 18, 2009, has been entered and acknowledged by the Examiner. Cancellation of claims 5 and 9 has been entered. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 10-12 are pending in the instant application.

### ***Specification***

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the limitation of “ordinary pressure” does not have proper antecedent basis in the specification. For examination purposes the Examiner will understand ordinary pressure to be atmospheric pressure.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagayama et al. (US 5,742,123).

Regarding claim 12, Nagayama discloses in a metal halide lamp having a pair of electrode structures mounted for providing electrodes in figure 1, the improvement comprising;

an arc tube of a translucent polycrystalline alumina ceramic (item 1F) having magnesium oxide of 200 ppm or below (column 10, line 66 thru column 11, line 3), and containing a discharge space in which the electrodes (item 3) of the electrode structures are located to oppose each other wherein the following equation is satisfied,  $0.5 \leq G \leq 1.5$  (column 16, lines 9-25) wherein an average crystal grain diameter in the translucent polycrystalline alumina ceramic arc tube is  $G(\mu\text{m})$  and is calculated by measuring the number of crystals grains per unit length of the arc tube extending in a direction between the electrodes and dividing the unit length by the number of crystal grains (column 11, lines 10-47), wherein the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has been sintered under one of ordinary pressure of a hydrogen atmosphere and under a vacuum and the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has a light transmittance of 94% or more (column 10, lines 20-26). The Examiner notes that, the claim is directed to the method of manufacturing a ceramic by sintering, in view of an absence of a showing that the method imparts distinctive structural characteristics to the final product, the limitations directed to the method of manufacturing are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keijser et al. (US 6,300,729) in view of Nagayama et al. (US 5,742,123).

Regarding claim 1, Keijser discloses a metal halide lamp in figures 1 and 2 comprising an arc tube (item 1) that includes: a pair of electrode structures, each of which has an electrode (items 4 and 5) at a tip (items 4b and 5b); a main tube part (item 3) made of ceramic (column 3, lines 7-9), and containing a discharge space (item 11) in which the electrodes of the electrode structures are located to oppose each other; and a pair of thin tube parts (items 34 and 35) that connect from the main tube part and are sealed by respective sealing members (item 10) with the electrode structures inserted therein, wherein the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has been sintered under one of ordinary pressure of a hydrogen atmosphere and under a vacuum, wherein  $20 \leq WL \leq 50$  and  $EL/Di \geq 2.0$  are satisfied (column 4, lines 41-43), where tube wall loading of the arc tube is  $WL(W/cm^2)$ , a distance between the electrodes is  $EL(mm)$ , an inner diameter of the main tube part is  $Di(mm)$ , wherein the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has a light transmittance of 94% or more (column 10, lines 20-26), but does not expressly disclose that the ceramic is sintered polycrystalline alumina having magnesium oxide of 200 ppm or below and that  $0.5 \leq G \leq 1.5$  is satisfied, where an average crystal grain diameter of the polycrystalline alumina ceramic is  $G(\mu m)$ , as claimed by Applicant. The Examiner notes that, the claim is directed to the method of manufacturing a ceramic by sintering, in view of an absence of a showing that the method imparts distinctive structural characteristics to the final product, the limitations directed to the method of manufacturing are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device.

Nagayama is cited to show a lamp in figure 1 with a tube part (item 1F) that is made from sintered polycrystalline alumina have an average crystal grain diameter between 0.7 and 1.4 microns (column 16, lines 9-25). Also the tube part has magnesium oxide of 100 ppm (column 10, line 66 thru column 11, line 3). Nagayama teaches that this particular diameter of the grain

can increase transmittance and diffuse less light (column 111, lines 36-47) and the MgO of this value produces no grain boundary phase (column 11, lines 1-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Keijser's invention to include the ceramic is polycrystalline alumina having magnesium oxide of 200 ppm or below and that  $0.5 \leq G \leq 1.5$  is satisfied, where a crystal grain diameter of the polycrystalline alumina ceramic is  $G(\mu\text{m})$  as suggested by Nagayama for diffusing less light, increasing transmittance, and producing no grain boundary phase.

Regarding claim 3, the combined reference of Keijser and Nagayama disclose the metal halide lamp of Claim 1, wherein the inner diameter  $D_i(\text{mm})$  of the main tube part satisfies  $2.0 \leq D_i \leq 10.0$  (Keijser; column 4, lines 41-42).

Regarding claim 6, Keijser discloses a metal halide lamp in figures 1 and 2 comprising an arc tube (item 1) that includes: a pair of electrode structures, each of which has an electrode (items 4 and 5) at a tip (items 4b and 5b); a main tube part (item 3) made ceramic (column 3, lines 7-9), and containing a discharge space (item 11) in which the electrodes of the electrode structures are located to oppose each other; and a pair of thin tube parts (items 34 and 35) that connect from the main tube part and are sealed by respective sealing members (item 10) with the electrode structures inserted therein, wherein the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has been sintered under one of ordinary pressure of a hydrogen atmosphere and under a vacuum, wherein  $20 \leq WL \leq 50$  and  $EL/D_i \geq 2.0$  are satisfied (column 4, lines 41-43), where tube wall loading of the arc tube is  $WL(\text{W/cm}^2)$ , a distance between the electrodes is  $EL(\text{mm})$ , an inner diameter of the main tube part is  $D_i(\text{mm})$ , wherein the polycrystalline alumina ceramic has a light transmittance

of 94% or more (column 10, lines 20-26), but does not expressly disclose that the ceramic is sintered polycrystalline alumina having magnesium oxide in a range of 1 ppm to 200 ppm and  $0.5 \leq G \leq 1.5$  is satisfied, where an average crystal grain diameter of the polycrystalline alumina ceramic is  $G(\mu\text{m})$ , as claimed by Applicant. The Examiner notes that, the claim is directed to the method of manufacturing a ceramic by sintering, in view of an absence of a showing that the method imparts distinctive structural characteristics to the final product, the limitations directed to the method of manufacturing are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device.

Nagayama is cited to show a lamp in figure 1 with a tube part (item 1F) that is made from sintered polycrystalline alumina have an average crystal grain diameter between 0.7 and 1.4 microns (column 16, lines 9-25). Also the tube part has magnesium oxide of 100 ppm (column 10, line 66 thru column 11, line 3). Nagayama teaches that this particular diameter of the grain can increase transmittance and diffuse less light (column 111, lines 36-47) and the MgO of this value produces no grain boundary phase (column 11, lines 1-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Keijser's invention to include the ceramic is polycrystalline alumina having magnesium oxide of 200 ppm or below and that  $0.5 \leq G \leq 1.5$  is satisfied, where a crystal grain diameter of the polycrystalline alumina ceramic is  $G(\mu\text{m})$  as suggested by Nagayama for diffusing less light, increasing transmittance, and producing no grain boundary phase.

Regarding claim 8, the combined reference of Keijser and Nagayama disclose the metal halide lamp of Claim 6, wherein the inner diameter  $D_i(\text{mm})$  of the main tube part satisfies  $2.0 \leq D_i \leq 10.0$  (Keijser; column 4, lines 41-42).

Regarding claim 10, the combined reference of Keijser and Nagayama disclose the metal halide lamp of Claim 1 wherein the average crystal grain diameter is measured, in the sintered polycrystalline alumina ceramic arc tube, by measuring a number of crystals per unit length of the arc tube extending in a direction between the electrodes and dividing the unit length by the number of crystals (Nagayama; column 11, lines 10-47).

Regarding claim 11, the combined reference of Keijser and Nagayama disclose the metal halide lamp of Claim 6 wherein the average crystal grain diameter is measured, in the sintered polycrystalline alumina ceramic arc tube, by measuring the number of crystals per unit length of the arc tube extending in a direction between the electrodes and dividing the unit length by the number of crystals (Nagayama; column 11, lines 10-47).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed August 18, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's arguments. The Examiner first notes that the added limitations regarding the pressure and atmosphere of the sintering process is directed to the method of manufacturing, and, in view of an absence of a showing that the method imparts distinctive structural characteristics to the final product, the limitations directed to the method of manufacturing are not germane to the issue of patentability of the device. Therefore, the added limitations are not germane to the patentability of the claim. The Examiner also notes that Nagayama discloses the magnesium oxide content and the grain diameter. Regarding the grain diameter, Nagayama discloses within the range, so it is not relevant whether it is the minimum or maximum range. Regarding Applicant's arguments



concerning the light transmittance, the Examiner disagrees. Nagayama discloses in column 10, telling different emitting wavelengths and the percentage of transmittance. All of the values are at least 70 percent or higher, which would include the claimed limitation of 94 percent. Regarding the argument that MgO has no intentional use, the Examiner disagrees. Nagayama clearly discloses that the MgO is used in the ceramic, so it has a use, since it is being used. Hence, Applicant's limitations are met as set forth.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie K. Walford whose telephone number is (571)-272-6012. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571)-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

nkW  
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